

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table as follows:

COPY

COMMUNICATION      00337      from the

U.S. Special Representative and CNMI Special Representative,

transmitting

a report on the 902 Consultations from the Special Representatives of the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) focusing on Immigration and Labor Issues and Proposed Military Activities in the CNMI, pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1801.

Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. January 24, 2017.

T00340

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January 17, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

No requirement

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We are pleased to transmit a report on 902 Consultations from the Special Representatives of the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The report focuses on Immigration and Labor Issues and Proposed Military Activities in the CNMI.

The Covenant to Establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America (Covenant) governs relations between the United States and its youngest territory, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Section 902 of the Covenant (48 U.S.C. § 1801) requires each government to designate a Special Representative to meet in good faith and consider important issues affecting our relationship at least once every ten years. These discussions are known as 902 Consultations.

Our first meeting occurred on June 6, 2016, and was followed by site visits in mid-June to the CNMI islands of Saipan and Tinian. The site visits, in addition to meetings with elected officials and affected members of the community, provided first-hand knowledge about the economic challenges facing the CNMI people, government, and private industry. This was followed by 902 Consultations in August, September, October, and December, and an historic trip to the remote CNMI northern island of Pagan on September 30.

The consultations and site visits were the basis for this report which reflects the views of both the U.S. and the CNMI. The report concludes with recommendations that both sides have agreed would help the CNMI transition from foreign workers to a U.S. workforce and help advance the national security concerns of the U.S. in the dynamic Asia-Pacific region.

As the Special Representatives, we hope Congress will find the report and its recommendations useful when considering these important issues. As the CNMI is a valued member of the American family, it is in all of our interests to ensure a strong and enduring relationship between the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sincerely,



Esther Kia'aina  
U.S. Special Representative



Ralph DLG. Torres  
CNMI Special Representative

cc: The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President, United States Senate  
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
The Honorable Rob Bishop, House Committee on Natural Resources  
The Honorable Raul Grijalva, House Committee on Natural Resources